

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION OF SECOND BILATERAL
MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENTS CARTER AND GEISEL, MARCH 30,
1978

1. AMBASSADOR SHOULD PASS FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN
RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT PEREZ'S REQUEST THAT HE BE BRIEFED
ON PRE-IDENT CARTER'S DISCUSSION IN BRAZIL ON NUCLEAR NON-
PROLIFERATION.

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2. IN HIS NEWS CONFERENCE IN BRASILIA, PRESIDENT CARTER
EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE THE US DOES NOT CHALLENGE THE RIGHT
OF BRAZIL AND WEST GERMANY TO CONTINUE THEIR AGREEMENT FOR
THE RETRANSFER OF ENRICHMENT AND REPROCESSING PLANTS OR
THE RIGHT OF BRAZIL TO DEVELOP AND ADVANCE NUCLEAR CAPABIL-
ITY, THE US DOES RESERVE THE RIGHT TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERNS

TO BOTH GOVERNMENTS ABOUT THE NEED TO DRAW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE RIGHT OF COUNTRIES TO UTILIZE ATOMIC POWER TO MEET THEIR ENERGY NEEDS AND THE PRODUCTION OF WEAPONS-GRADE NUCLEAR MATERIALS THROUGH ENRICHMENT PROCESSES OR REPROCESSING. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT IT WOULD BE MUCH BETTER TO DEVELOP A NUCLEAR FUEL SYSTEM THAT DID NOT RELY ON REPROCESSING, AND HE NOTED THAT THE US HAD, IN THE LAST 25 YEARS, MADE MAJOR INVESTMENTS IN REPROCESSING PLANTS BUT ALL OF THE COMMERCIAL PLANTS HAVE NOW BEEN ABANDONED AS BEING UNECONOMICAL. THE PRESIDENT URGED BRAZIL AND OTHER COUNTRIES TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE CAPABILITY.

3. IN HIS PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT GEISEL THE PRESIDENT ALSO DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF OTHER NON-PROLIFERATION RELATED SUBJECTS THESE INCLUDE:

A) TREATY OF TLATELOLCO

THE PRESIDENT URGED BRAZIL TO BRING THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO INTO EFFECT. PRESIDENT GEISEL RESPONDED THAT BRAZIL FEELS THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES SUCH AS FRANCE AND THE USSR SHOULD MAKE A COMMITMENT TO THE NON-USE OF THESE WEAPONS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. FOREIGN MINISTER S. SILVEIRA SAID THAT BRAZIL BELIEVES THAT WITH THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO IT HAS COMMITTED
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ITSELF NOT TO MANUFACTURE NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND NOTED THAT THE AGREEMENT WITH THE FRG PROVIDED THAT NO NUCLEAR DEVICE WILL BE MANUFACTURED EVEN FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

B) US NON-PROLIFERATION LEGISLATION

PRESIDENT CARTER EXPLAINED BRIEFLY THAT THE NEW US NON-PROLIFERATION LAW CLARIFIES THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE US WILL SUPPLY NUCLEAR FUEL IN THE FUTURE AND OFFERED TO HAVE AMBASSADOR SMITH RETURN TO BRAZIL TO EXPLAIN IN DETAIL THE TERMS OF THE LEGISLATION SO THAT BRAZIL'S FUTURE NUCLEAR FUEL NEEDS CAN BE MET CONSISTENT WITH US LAW. PRESIDENT GEISEL SAID THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO RECEIVE AMBASSADOR SMITH TO DISCUSS THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW LEGISLATION.

C) COOPERATION IN THE THORIUM FUEL CYCLE

PRESIDENT CARTER WELCOMED THE RECENT FRG-BRAZIL AGREEMENT TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON THE THORIUM FUEL CYCLE AND STATED THAT THE US WOULD BE GLAD TO COOPERATE WITH BRAZIL IN THIS AREA.

D) INFCE

PRESIDENT CARTER SAID THAT THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION STUDIES REPRESENT A GOOD MEANS OF LEARNING FROM ONE ANOTHER. PRESIDENT GEISEL RESPONDED THAT BRAZIL IS VERY ACTIVE IN INFCE AND IS PLEASED TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS KIND OF COOPERATIVE EFFORT.

4. IN PASSING ABOVE TO GOV, AMBASSADOR MAY MAKE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS:

-- PRESIDENT CARTER'S DISCUSSIONS IN BRAZIL WERE FRANK AND FRIENDLY. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT BRAZIL IS
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RECONSIDERING THE REPROCESSING AND ENRICHMENT ASPECTS OF ITS CONTRACT WITH THE FRG, BUT THE GOB CLEARLY UNDERSTANDS OUR CONCERNS.

-- ALTHOUGH OUR PERSPECTIVE ON THE REPROCESSING ISSUE DIFFER, WE WERE ENCOURAGED BY PRESIDENT GEISEL'S STRONG COMMITMENT TO NON-PROLIFERATION AND SAFEGUARDS.

-- AMBASSADOR SMITH WILL BE TRAVELING TO BRAZIL IN MAY (EXACT DATES TO BE ARRANGED) TO BRIEF THE GOB ON THE NEW US NON-PROLIFERATION LEGISLATION. CHRISTOPHER

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